

# The HUB

The Official Newsletter of American Fork City



## WATER AND GROWTH

By Mayor Brad Frost

I have lived in American Fork my whole life and I consider myself a realist when it comes to growth. I am not looking to help grow our state as much as possible, but I'm also not getting angry when it inevitably comes. I recognize its more important to play a role in making sure growth happens correctly rather than sit idly by complaining about its existence. I also recognize that my feelings regarding growth have been tempered over the years as I have become educated on the issues; particularly as growth relates to our state's water resources. I hope to share with you some things I have learned to help debunk common misconceptions with growth and water.



Many Utahns worry there is not enough water for our current and future residents. Those fears are understandable given our current drought conditions. After all, we live in a desert climate and, as such, we should care for every precious drop of water. Some people may think one solution would be to halt all growth. After all, if we only have so much water then why would we allow more

people in our state that we now must share that water with?

While at face value that logic makes sense, with a little bit more context we can see some problems if we were to act on that belief. For one thing, historically most of Utah's growth comes from within rather than without. That is, historically most of our growth in Utah is from our children growing up and staying rather than from people moving in from other states. To halt growth altogether would be telling your children that when they grow up, they need to not only leave your house, but the state as well. Our children are the best group to carry on our values into the next generation. We need to find places for them here in Utah to help preserve the identity of Utah.

The next misconception is that new homes, especially apartments and condos, are what's gobbling up our precious water supply. In American Fork people ask me why we are approving more homes if they fill up our roads and compete for our limited water. Well, in addition to planning higher density development closer to main traffic corridors like freeway and frontrunner stations to help mitigate traffic on our roads, American Fork City plans for our water needs as well.

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## Office Numbers

Administration .....	801-763-3000
Public Works.....	801-763-3060
Library .....	801-763-3070
Fitness Center.....	801-763-3080
Senior Center .....	801-763-3090

## Non-Emergency

Police .....	801-763-3020
Fire & Rescue.....	801-763-3045

## On-Call / After-Hour

Water/Pressurized .....	801-404-1253
Sewer/Storm Drain .....	801-404-7167
Streets .....	801-404-1255
Garbage .....	801-924-8500
Street Lights .....	801-814-4311



**AMERICAN FORK**  
www.americanfork.gov



## Keep AF Safe This July 4th



While fireworks are not strictly banned in American Fork (as of July 1), it is particularly important to exercise extreme caution if you choose to light fireworks. Please do not light them around dry brush or grass and keep them away from homes. Thoroughly douse spent fireworks and let them sit overnight away from dry areas before throwing away. Only light fireworks at safe locations. Aerials are only allowed at six parks in American Fork, though even then caution is advised. Because of the drought and water restrictions many residents are choosing not to light fireworks at all. While we applaud these efforts, this is not yet required.

### PERMITTED DATES IN JULY

As per state law fireworks of any kind are only to be permitted in Utah during the following days:

- July 2-5\*
- July 22-25\*

*\*In July fireworks can be lit from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on all allowed nights except the 4th and 24th, which will be until 12 a.m.).*

Please visit [americanfork.gov/fireworks](http://americanfork.gov/fireworks) for more information.

## WATER AND GROWTH

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Many people may not understand the difference between water rights and water availability. Water rights are the purchased right to acquire water for a particular use. For American Fork City, whenever a farmer chooses to annex into the city and sell his property, the developer of that property must turn over to the city the proper amount of water rights to service the residents or businesses of that new development. As the city grows so too does the city's ability to provide water to our residents. At no point will we have more people in our city than we are allowed to supply water to. This is the case for every city in Utah. The key is making sure we have water availability for everyone.

According to the Utah's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) the largest water users in Utah are not homes and apartments but farms. According to DNR, 75% of annual water use in Utah goes towards agriculture purposes. The Utah Rivers Council estimates as much as 85% of our water consumption goes to agriculture while 15% goes towards municipal and industrial water usage. Whatever the percent is, it's clear the largest consumers of water are not residents but farmers. Before you start painting targets on farmers, please recognize we need agriculture, and they too are working on improving wise watering practices. But the misconception that housing is gobbling up our water is not just wrong, it's the opposite of the truth. Contrary to what some may think, every irrigated field that's converted to homes or apartments actually reduces Utah's water consumption rather than increases it.

The last misconception I'd like to clear up deals with is who responsible for "fixing" our drought situation. Most people think we should stop growth and farming before we ask residents to conserve water. As I discussed above ending growth would not solve our water issues. Instead, it would hurt our water conservation and would hinder opportunities for our children to live here as well. And while farmers make up the largest percent of water use, some homeowners represent a large percent of water misuse. Now, I know residents are trying hard to fix this. The City also hasn't been perfect and we are trying hard to correct any accidental water waste. In American Fork our population has grown by 2.7% annually, or 27% over the last decade. Last year when we asked (not mandated) residents to conserve outdoor watering, we were able to lower our citywide water use by 26% from the previous year. In one year we were able to reduce water consumption by as much as we have grown in the last 10 years. I feel confident that similar stories exist in cities all throughout Utah. If everyone acts as wise and responsible stewards of our precious water, then there will be enough water for everyone.

I love my city and my state. As I said I have lived here my whole life. I know we can all live here together and have water if we are willing to work together and make smart decisions. We should not sit on the sidelines but get involved and get educated on the issues. Hopefully I have helped you understand that the conversation does not need to be growth "vs" water but should be growth "and" water. If we responsibly manage both resources today, we will have enough water for our future generations tomorrow.

LET'S GO FOR A

# SPIN!



**AMERICAN FORK**  
FITNESS &  
RECREATION

CHECK OUT OUR CYCLING CLASSES AT: [AMERICANFORK.GOV/FITNESS](http://AMERICANFORK.GOV/FITNESS)

**NEW PURE CYCLE STUDIO NOW OPEN!**



# AF City Irrigation Guidelines

American Fork City is implementing the guidelines set forth by the Governor by reducing irrigation water consumption of turf lawn by one third (33%). Irrigation water users can accomplish this a number of ways. They can stop watering on one of their three days, or cut back watering by 33% on all their three days. As a rule of thumb you shouldn't water more than 15 minutes for spray heads and 30 minutes for rotor heads. The City will also reduce scheduled watering of all city facilities.

We ask that all residents and businesses voluntarily comply, and self-govern their property as we work together as a community. Additionally, residents must only water on their approved days. Enforcement and fines shall remain as described in the municipal code and resolutions previously adopted.

Did you know that over the last few years American Fork has used so much pressurized irrigation water that we must supplement our PI systems with regular drinking water from our aquifer!? This happens in most all of Utah County cities which makes it worse! Please help us preserve our water by reducing your PI usage. As many have said regarding grass, yellow is the new green.

Visit [americanfork.gov](http://americanfork.gov) for more information.

<b>ROTOR</b> SPRINKLER HEADS	<b>SPRAY</b> SPRINKLER HEADS
	
<b>ADJUST TIME TO 30 MINUTES</b>	<b>ADJUST TIME TO 15 MINUTES</b>

## 2022 Summer Reading



**June-July**  
**For all ages!**  
**No registration required!**

Come pick up a reading tracking sheet

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**NOW OPEN!**

Come see the newly added Children's Activity Room  
 Funded by the PARC Tax Program and the Ellen Tracy Family



Learn more by visiting:  
[americanfork.gov/library](http://americanfork.gov/library)




## Timpanogos Arts Foundation JULY EVENTS

Jul <b>11-15</b>	Cinderella Junior [SOLD OUT] Mini-Musical Timpanogos Youth Theater (Formerly American Fork Youth Theater) @ Valentine Theater
Jul <b>21-23</b>	Lion King Junior Timpanogos Youth Theater (Formerly American Fork Youth Theater) @ American Fork Amphitheater
Jul <b>29-13</b>	Oliver Timpanogos Community Theater @ Valentine Theater
Aug <b>ALL</b>	Art Classes & Workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Animal Sculpture</li> <li>• Fun Art for Kids</li> <li>• Sketching &amp; Caricatures</li> <li>• Beginning Watercolor</li> </ul>

For tickets & more information:  
[www.taftix.com](http://www.taftix.com)



# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## Tuesday, July 5

**Pickleball Tournament** - 6:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m. at Art Dye Park  
**Golf Tournament** - 8:00 a.m. at Fox Hollow Golf Club  
**Horseshoe Tournament** - 5:30 p.m. at Rotary Park  
**Cardio Party - Free Zumba** - 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Fitness Center parking lot  
**Cardio Party - Free High Fitness** - 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Fitness Center parking lot  
**Cardio Party - Free Yoga** - 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Pony Baseball Field (across the parking lot from the Fitness Center)  
**Opening Ceremonies and Kickoff Concert** - 6:30 p.m. at Quail Cove Amphitheater

## Wednesday, July 6

**Pickleball Tournament** - 6:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m. at Art Dye Park  
**Art Show** - 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the American Fork Library  
**Discount Swim Day** - 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the American Fork Fitness Center  
**Kids Splash Night** - 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Art Dye Park  
**Kickball Tournament** - 6:00 p.m. at Art Dye Park  
**Teen Pool Party** - 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at American Fork Fitness Center  
**Carnival** - 6:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at Art Dye Park

## Thursday, July 7

**Pickleball Tournament** - 6:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m. at Art Dye Park  
**Art Show** - 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the American Fork Library  
**Quilt Show** - 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Center  
**Carnival** - 4:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at Art Dye Park  
**Tea with the Queen** - 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Fox Hollow Golf Club  
**Kickball Tournament** - 6:00 p.m. at Art Dye Park  
**Cornhole Tournament** - 7:00 p.m. at Art Dye Park  
**Art Show Awards** - 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Robinson Park

## Friday, July 8

**Pickleball Tournament** - 6:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m. at Art Dye Park  
**Garden Tour** - 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at various locations (see schedule on Garden Tour page)  
**Art Show** - 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the American Fork Library  
**Quilt Show** - 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Center  
**Carnival** - 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. at Art Dye Park  
**Car Show** - 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Rotary Park  
**Car Cruise** - 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at American Fork Main Street  
**Food and Vendor Market** - 4:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at Art Dye Park  
**American Fork's Got Talent** - 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Art Dye Park  
**Movie in the Park** - Dusk (9:30 p.m.) at Art Dye Park

## Saturday, July 9

**Marching Band Breakfast** - 6:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. in the Macey's parking lot  
**Steel Days Run 5K/10K/Kids Race** - 7:00 a.m. at the Fire Station  
**Spikeball Tournament** - 9:00 a.m. at Art Dye Park  
**Grand Parade** - 9:30 a.m. at Main Street and 100 E.  
**Art Show** - 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the American Fork Library  
**Quilt Show** - 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Senior Center  
**Garden Tour** - 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at various locations (see schedule on Garden Tour page)  
**Carnival** - 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. at Art Dye Park  
**Smoke & Steel Cookoff** - 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Art Dye Park  
**Food and Vendor Market** - 12:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at Art Dye Park  
**Live Entertainment** - 1:45 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Art Dye Park  
**Steel Days Fair** - 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Art Dye Park  
**Big Show Opening Act** - 6:30 p.m. at Art Dye Park  
**Big Show** - 8:00 p.m. at Art Dye Park  
**Fireworks** - 10:00 p.m. at Art Dye Park

For more information visit:  
**steeldaysaf.com**